GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:309
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2000
COST OF COTTON PRODUCTION
SRINIVASULU KALAVA

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cotton produced in the country is not succeeding in the competition in international market due to its low quality and high price;

(b) if so, whether the Government have contemplated any effective steps to reduce the cost of cotton production in the country and to improve its quality; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.
STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS

(a) TO

(c) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.309 TO BE ANSWERED ON 11TH DECEMBER, 2000 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a): Indian cotton is discounted in international market due to poor quality of ginning, imperfect packing, contamination and higher trash contents.

(b)&(c): In order to improve the yield and the quality of cotton, the Government of India is implementing of a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Technology Mission on Cotton in January, 2000. The Mission consists of four Mini-Missions. Mini-Mission-I on research is dealt with by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research for evolving newer and better varieties/technologies suitable for different agro-climatic conditions of the country for improving yield and quality of cotton.

The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is responsible for the implementation of Mini-Mission-II for enhancing production and productivity by modification of on-going Scheme of Intensive Cotton Development Programme, through various extension/developmental activities such as transfer of technology by field demonstration/farmers` training, supply of certified seeds of varieties released during last fifteen years, use of water saving devices like sprinkler and drip systems, establishment of seed delinting machines and various activities of pest control including setting up of bio- agent units, pest surveillance, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), demonstration-cum- training, supply of sprayers/pheromone trap/bio-agents.

The Ministry of Textiles is nodal Ministry for implementation of Mini-Mission-III and Mini-Mission-IV. Mini-Mission-III is meant for the development of marketing infra-structure by undertaking activities like construction of marketing yards, auction centers, grading facilities, laboratories for testing quality of cotton. Mini-Mission-IV aims at upgradation and modernisation of ginning and pressing factories for the production of better quality cotton.